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(S4) Tide: IMPROVED APPARATUS FOR GRANULAR CRACKER PRODUCTION

(57) Abstract

In a cracker production apparatus of the type comprising a heatable mould consisting of a stationary upper mould element (7), a movable ring mould (10) and a reciprocating lower mould element or punch (9) driven by a hydraulically actuated toggle-mechanism (11), the improvement wherein a twin-head mould arrangement for high rate, automatic manufacture of uniformly expanded crackers is driven by a single hydraulic drive unit formed of two aligned, cooperating double-action pistons, whereby a first piston is adapted to control, in combination with specific central program/microprocessing means, an adjustable final baking pressure, and a second piston to regulate a desired expanded cracker thickness, and this independent of grain feed and/or apparatus related mechanical parameters. Advantageously two twin-head machines are arranged in tandem with a single hydraulic drive unit and mutually connected toggle members. The ring moulds may be designed for allowing multiple cracker production in each mould set.

